

Table 2: Fluid analysis supporting a diagnosis of lymphatic fluid

Fluid Appearance	Cloudy, milky white to serosanguinous, turbid and thick
Fluid:Serum protein ratio	Fluid should be sent for total protein concentration, Fluid:Serum protein ratio of 0.5 or more
Fluid LDH	Elevated fluid lactic dehydrogenase (LDH) > 160 IU/L
Fat levels (chylomicrons)	Increased Sudan III staining for fat globules, protein analysis demonstrating increased chylomicrons (lipoprotein electrophoregram)
Glucose level	Elevated fluid glucose > 100 mg/dL
Triglycerides	Elevated fluid triglyceride >110 mg/dL associated with lymphatic fluid (< 50 mg/dL inconsistent with lymphatic fluid)
Lymphocytes	Increased lymphocyte cell count, > 50% lymphocytes (ALC of > 500)